

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 28 to read as follows:

In an alternative embodiment of the invention the invention may be used to propel table tennis balls toward a player who wishes to practice their table tennis ball returns. Such a player is figuratively shown in Figure 5 holding a table tennis paddle. For table tennis and other games, such as tennis, there is no home plate so the transmitter must be positioned in a different location. Alternatively, either a small transmitter 45 that may be worn either on a belt of the player as shown, or a small transmitter 46 that may be worn on the wrist of the player, is utilized, both as shown in Figure 5. The transmitters 45 or 46 are packaged in a [is] relatively small container [45 with] having seven buttons thereon (corresponding to switches 15a-g on home plate 14) that is mounted on the players belt, or on a player wrist with a strap, both as shown in Figure 5. With their free hand the player actuates ones of the buttons on the transmitter when they wish to initiate a ball being propelled toward them.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 18 to read as follows:

Figure 1 shows a hitting practice equipment device [10] in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention. Device [10] comprises a bat 11, a pitching machine 12 that propels balls 13 toward a batter / individual holding bat 11, and a home plate 14 with a built in transmitter (not shown) that includes activation switches 15a – 15g ~~{15f}~~ that are operated by the batter touching and operating one of switches 15a – 15g with bat 11. In both professional and non-professional baseball batters often touch the home plate in front of them as they are preparing to receive a pitch and this action is repeated with the present hitting practice training equipment [10].

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8 to read as follows:

Prior to using the hitting practice training equipment [40] the batter positions and adjusts pitching machine 12 so it propels balls into a hitting zone above home plate 14. Details of pitching machine 12 are given with reference to Figures 2 and 3.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24 to read as follows:

Thus, there is a need in the prior art for improved hitting practice equipment that can be selectively activated by the batter using a transmitter and receiver when they want a game piece ~~peeee~~, such as a ball, to be propelled to them to be hit, and the transmitter is not subject to the mechanical shocks of prior art apparatus.